

Maxwell (G) Agent to Sir S. Gideon Bart.

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A D D I T I O N A L

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R E A S O N S

O F F E R E D T O T H E

P R O P R I E T O R S O F E S T A T E S

I N T H E

N O R T H L E V E L,

A G A I N S T T H E I N T R O D U C T I O N O F A N Y

N E W T A X.

PETERBOROUGH;

PRINTED BY J. JACOB, MDCCLXXXVIII.

A D D I T I O N A L

R E A S O N S

PROPRIETORS OF ESTATES

I N T H E

N O R T H L E V E L



AGAINST THE IN

N E W T A X

PETERBOROUGH

PRINTED BY J. JACOB, MDCCCLXXVII.



ADDITIONAL REASONS

OFFERED AGAINST A NEW TAX

ON THE

NORTH LEVEL.

TH E Author of the Paper signed — “A North Level Proprietor” says an anonymous Writer is to be suspected of Invention; so that according to his own shewing, it is necessary to be very cautious how you place any Confidence in him. The Substance of his candid Exordium is, that Opinion has been used for Reason, and Bold Assertions for Facts, and that the Statements made are founded in Error and Partiality.— The generality of my Readers will admit that whatever may be the Value of his Information, I am not bound to answer every hired Scribbler, and more especially since by that Means I shall increase the Publications of my Opponent, and thereby injure the Cause I mean to serve, as both he and his Printer will be paid most probably out of the North Level Funds; but as in this Case, it is pretty easy to determine who is the Author of this Attack in the Dark, I shall not hesitate to expose the Absurdity of what he has advanced.

First

First as to the Author: Mr. Leg can have had no hand in the Observations, because the Author formally declares his Ignorance as to the Proposition of a new Tax, until my Publication informed him; and it was from Mr. Leg that it came to me, and the Propriety of the Measure has been since publicly argued in Mr. Leg's Presence at the annual Meeting of the Commissioners, so that although the Plan for a new Tax hath certainly never appeared in its proper Shape before the Public; Mr. Leg had he been capable of this Assertion would have been guilty of a mental if not a verbal Falsehood, that would have been detected in a Moment.

Not to waste Time in Conjecture, I shall not hesitate to say altho' I shall probably give PAINE to some of my Readers, that one Mr. Trouble an Understrapper of Mr. Leg's must be the Author, and for this plain Reason; because there is no other Man in the North Level who is drunken or stupid enough to foist such Nonsense on the Public, and because the Estimates formed for the Expenditure of the Commissioners Fund, being sanctioned by the Signature of this Mr. Trouble, it is plain that he is a Gentleman of no small Consequence in the Management thereof. My Statements Mr. Trouble says, are founded in Error and Partiality, but how does he prove this? Why, at the very Outset he uses this remarkably strong Expression viz. "His Statement of the Corporation Fund is certainly right, and 1062l. 17s. 4d. has been the annual Fund for Support of the Out-ring Banks of the North Level." How this is frittered down to 944l. 17s. 4d. since it is all that the Fund produced; and how 464l. 11s. 10d. which will be left at Christmas next will be frittered down to 346l. 11s. 10d. is nothing at all to the Purpose.

I deny that I have admitted that this Sum will be insufficient: For the sake of confuting the Proposer of the Tax on Mr. Leg's own Ground, I have said, that *altho' 464l. 11s. 10d. may be an insufficient Fund*, it is unnecessary to increase it to 1714l. 11s. 10d. and for these plain Reasons, namely because 1062l. 17s. 4d. has improved the Banks — because 400l. per Annum is the most that has been laid out upon the South Bank, and because the Proposer of the Tax requires less than 800l. for this Fund for the first eleven Years.

But those who know Mr. Trouble, will not expect he should understand Accuracy of Language, and therefore I proceed to the next

next Sentence in which Mr. Trouble, or Mr. Author, you have told a wilful and direct Falsehood, in saying that "I have proved the North Bank to be wonderfully increased in Size and Strength, *by asserting that during the last nine Years it has not been in the least Danger of breaking.*" — Look at this Sentence again Mr. Trouble, I suppose you can read, because it seems you can write, and in your next Publication, copy my Assertion verbatim, if you can find any such amongst my Reasons.

A Saying in the Collection of the Taxes Mr. Trouble says is a Matter not worth Contention. — I fancy the Proprietors will be of a different Opinion before I have done, but without considering the Sufficiency or Insufficiency of the Funds, which by the bye is the main Drift and Intention of my first Publication, having expressly confined my Arguments to the mere Necessity of the Measure; Mr. Trouble proceeds to consider my Plan for raising Money, and the Effect it will have with respect to the Duke of Bedford. — This Part of the Business is discussed with such wonderful Stupidity, that it must have required the concurring Aid of joint Abilities — Rise then Mr. Leg — Take the WING of the Morning, — Come forward, — If 880l. the Tax to be paid by his Grace being one Half of the whole Tax or thereabouts, does not in its Operation in the course of 13 Years produce 15400l. tell the Proprietors by what strange and unaccountable Magic you are enabled with the whole Tax, which is 1794l. 16s. 8d. to pay off 25000l. in 13 Years, and in the mean Time to increase the annual Fund from 464l. 11s. 10d. to 775l. per Annum? I again assert that the new Tax takes from his Grace in Principle and Interest 15400l. in 13 Years, and that it takes from the other Proprietors including Sir Sampson Gideon, 16022l. You or your Tool Mr. Trouble may call these Facts bold Assertions if you think proper, but until you can shew how 31422l. is to be paid with only 17000l. you will not be able to destroy the Credit of them. — Mr. Trouble has dipped into some wrong Place, of an Annuity Book, and finding that an Annuity or Tax for 13 Years is worth only 9 Years and 5 Months Purchase, he has with great Ingenuity applied it to this Case, tho' I never before heard that the Tax when laid was to be purchased off. — In other Words he estimates the 15400l. produced by Mr. Leg's own Plan from the Duke's Tax of 880l. per Annum, at no more than 8350l. and foisting into the Reckoning some fictitious Deductions, the Meaning
of

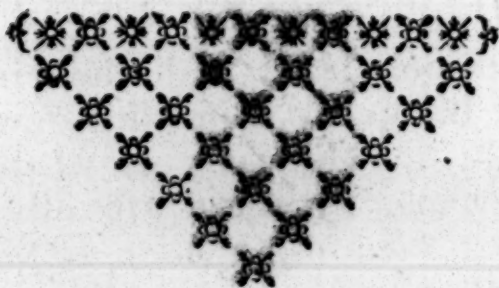
of which neither himself nor any one else can clearly understand, he shews that the most noble Francis Duke of Bedford will gain by the new Tax the amazing Sum of Ten-pence Halfpenny, which is the exact Price of three Halts any Market-day at Peterborough, and for the lasting Benefit of the North Level, you Mr. Trouble will have no more to do, than to hang yourself and those Leaches the ***** of the Commissioners Taxes, tho' one of them being but a Deputy to the other may be spared, and therefore I advise you to go to the highest Part of the North Bank, and look about for another honest Man equally concerned with yourselves in the Expenditure of the North Level Funds. — After settling this *knotty* Point, Mr. Trouble having admitted that 700l. or thereabouts, tho' by the bye it is 800l. or thereabouts, will upon my Plan be the Fund for the Support of the Outring Banks, goes on, and says that Sum never has been sufficient. — To this I answer, that 775l. is the whole that Mr. Leg's Plan provides, for the next eleven Years, and if in the Opinion of himself, it ought to be more than I have allowed, let him increase it by suffering the Fund to receive the Profit (which in Fairness belongs to it, and which somebody makes) on the reletting of the Herbage of the Banks : — this I can tell him is no very inconsiderable Sum, in Proof of which as his Friend Mr. Trouble requires Proofs; The Corporation by putting up the Herbage of the South Bank in small Lots, make 73l. 8s. a Year of it, or thereabouts. By putting up the Herbage of the North Bank in large Lots, which is longer than the South Bank by two Miles and five Furlongs, and the Herbage of which is greatly superior to that of the South Bank, somebody is accommodated with it at 21l. per Annum, and the same Person is accommodated with the Herbage of the Folly Banks and the Welland Banks in about the same Proportion; so that you see Mr. Trouble, by the Exercise of what even Abilities like yours, are capable of, I mean common Honesty, the Fund may be increased to your own Satisfaction, as much as Mr. Leg has required, even supposing that my Plan will produce only 700l. instead of 800l. which I contend to be the Fact. The Remainder of this Paragraph which is wound up with a happy Climax of Expression, Children, Posterity, Security, Debts, and Danger, is so much in the Style of Mr. Leg himself, that if I were to confute it, I must change my Address from Mr. Trouble to him, which I am unwilling to do for the Reason at first given, viz. because he who is well known to be incapable of a Falsehood, cannot be the Author of the foregoing Part. of it. I shall therefore
content

content myself with observing, that it would be hard indeed, if a Man who expects to gain near six Hundred Pounds by the Collection of a new Tax cannot find a Trifle to say in Defence of it.— Before I conclude what I have to offer on this Part of the Funds, I must add, that instead of 400l. which I have supposed to be expended for the Support of the South Bank, it turns out to have been no more than 320l. on an Average of the last 9 Years. I must likewise inform the Proprietors that this Fund will be increased by the letting of the Sands vested in the Corporation by the Tid and Newton Act of Parliament, but I am not enabled to inform them at present how much the Increase is likely to be.

I must defer considering the Remainder of Mr Trouble's Observations a short Time, but I promise him to go on with the Subject as soon as I can gain a little Leisure, and I may probably bring to light some other Facts which the Proprietors ought to be informed of.

Fletton, Sept. 11, 1788.

GEO. MAXWELL.



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Tid and Newton list of Parliament, but I am not enabled to in-
fer by the listing of the Bonds voted in the Corporation by the
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been no more than good on an Average of the last 9 Years. I
pedged for the support of the South Bank, it turns out to have
I really add, that instead of a loss, which I have supposed to be ex-
Before I conclude what I have to offer on this Part of the Fund,
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Man who expects to gain near six Hundred Pounds by the Col-
content myself with observing, that it would be hard indeed, if a

I will defer doubting the Remembrance of Mr. Toulton's Order. I will not quarrel with you as to your going to the subject as soon as I can give a little leisure, and I will probably bring to light some other facts which the historians ought to be in possession of.

Phone, Sec 11, 1988

It affords me a real Pleasure to find in my former Publication I have been so guarded as to state every thing relating to the before-mentioned Fund to my own Disadvantage in the Argument, for I am enabled to say positively that the contingent Profits of this Fund which I have stated in my former Publication in general Terms to be more than 100l. per Annum are now actually 175l. and I am likewise enabled to say that in the before-going Account I have stated the Rents of the North Banks too high by 3l. 3s. a Year, the whole of it being actually let for no more than 17l. 17s. od. a Year including the Fisheries—The Rent of the Folly and Welland Banks is 5l. 5s. od. a Year and as near as can be ascertained the Profits from reletting these Banks and Fisheries are about 80l. a Year but this I do not pretend to say is accurately right—whatever is the Amount of the Profits, however, they fairly and honestly belong to this Fund, and it is the Proprietors own Faults if they do not procure their being brought to the Account since there cannot be the least doubt of its being done on Application to the Duke of Bedford who will spurn the Idea of withholding from a Country what really belongs to it. My Opponent is possessed of written Documents from which he might have set these Matters critically right, which I will venture to say would have given him more Credit, than he can possibly acquire by taking the very uncandid Part that he has done, in saying that my Statements are founded in *Error and Partiality*, when he is so far from bringing any Proof in Support of this Assertion, that I have actually stated the Amount of the Fund at very considerably less than what it produces, and respecting the other Fund it will be presently seen, how much better he has succeeded.

The Delivery of the first Part of my Additional Reasons, having been suspended for some Days, the following Letters will sufficiently account for the Delay.

To Mr. Wing, Thorney Ably.

Sir,

Fletton, Sept. 14, 1788.

IF You know any Gentleman of the Name of Leg, be so good as to deliver the Inclosed to him, and tell him that a Continuation of the Subject will be ready to be delivered to-morrow Evening. The following is the Introduction to it.

"Here the Introduction to the Second Part was copied".

I have now to inform Mr. Leg through You that I have gone very extensively into the Subject and explained every Part of the North Level Business in the most forcible Manner I know how, and let the Consequence be what it will my Determination is to publish what I have written, if necessary; but as I wish under all Circumstances of Provocation, to conduct myself with Candour, and to prevent the ill Consequences that may arise (not to myself I promise you) and the unpleasant Sensations I should feel if I did not take all possible Means to prevent those ill Consequences, I am desirous that my Opponent should have time to reflect a little on the Situation in which he stands, and if in his own Opinion the Suppression of all that may be said with Truth by an insulted Antagonist is of any Consequence; an Apology public as the Insult, and signed with his own proper Name will have the Effect he desires; If no Notice is taken of this by to-morrow Evening, the Publication will be delivered out and the Consequences must be abided by.

I am Sir

your obenient Servant,

GEO. MAXWELL.

P. S. By the Word Suppression — I mean a Suppression of both Parts for there is no Person living has a Copy of what I now send you except myself — or will have a Copy until to-morrow Evening, and not then unless rendered necessary.

Answer.

Thorney Abby, Sept 15, 1788.

Sir,

IF by Mr. Leg you mean me — Not being conscious of having offered you any Insult, I can make no Concession. — You may either publish or suppress.

I am

your humble Servant,

J. WING.

To Mr. Wing.

Sept. 16, 1788,

Sir,

IF You are Mr. Leg you have insulted me very grossly, by attacking Me and my Motives, and you have added to this Insult, a very peculiar Sort of Meanness, in sheltering yourself under an anonymous Signature. However, it is barely possible the Writer might not intend me any Offence, and in that Case it would hurt me, to use the same Language, which Resentment for a designed Insult would certainly justify. — The Portrait I have drawn, in my Second Part, I assure you is not a very amiable one; and some Circumstances having arisen to delay the Printing, I sincerely wish you would take the Trouble of seeing it, in the State it is now in, at Jacob's, who has a confidential Power from me to shew it to you. — Contemplate very seriously the Facts I have delineated, — They are such as I shall support by written Documents, if necessary, but it is not too late to suppress them. — I do not mean to pledge myself that the Publication shall be exactly as you will read it in its present State.

GEO. MAXWELL.

Answer. — Sept. 16. 1788.

Sir,

MY Curiosity leads me to wish to see your Publication, but I shall not take the Advantage of the Opportunity you have offered me.

Your's

J. WING.

A. WING



ADDITIONAL REASONS

C O N T I N U E D.

Having given Mr. Leg a little Time to rub off the tickling Sensation which the former Part of my additional Reasons most probably occasioned, I shall now proceed, and if I should chance to penetrate the outer Skin, and probe his Wounds a little deeper, he must excuse me, for anonymous Assailants are not intitled to much Lenity, and let him not forget this remarkable Expression of mine, viz. "*The following Lines are written not against Men and the Motives that influence them but against Measures resulting from those Motives*" This Expression stood as part of the Introduction to the Manuscript Copy of my first Publication, and it is Mr. Leg himself who has now obliged me to change my Battery, and attack the Men themselves.

MR. Trouble next proceeds to consider my Reasons (as he jocularly calls them, after first saying they are only Opinions) relating to the Commissioners Funds and Works — My Title to this Fund is "The Fund for the Commissioners Works, namely the Works of the Outfall of the North Level" to which Mr. Trouble has annexed the Word *only*, and by this happy Addition has raised an Hypothesis on which he argues at great Length, but what does it amount to? No more than this, that I who am a Volunteer in the Cause, and who am not even suspected of being paid for what I do, have used more Brevity than Mr. Trouble, whose very Brandy that supports him (for he has given over eating) is paid for out of the North Level Funds.—Had I used more Brevity by stopping at these Words, "The Fund for Commissioners Works" or after having inserted the short Explanation contained in these

these Words, viz. "The Works of the Outfal of the North Level", if I had inserted the following Words "including Commissioners Drains, Banks, Sluices, Bridges, and Salaries" three Pages of Mr. Trouble's elegant Composition would have been lost, for altho' he doth not in such strong Terms as before admit my *Statement of the Fund itself to be right*, he tacitly confesses it to be so, by no where contradicting it, and thereby completely gives the Lie to his own Assertion at the Beginning, where he says *my Statements are founded in Error and Partiality*, for these two Statements of the Funds are what he must be supposed to mean, if he means any Thing. — As to his subsequent Explanation of the Reason why the Fund of 990l. 11s. 2d. per Annum has been *more than sufficient* to keep good these Works of the Commissioners, namely because 20000l. had been expended on them *previous to 1779*, it means no more than that to regain the Outfal by opening Kinderly's Cut, a large Sum was expended, and in like Manner it might be shewn that to build an elegant expensive House will undoubtedly cost a great deal of Money, but it does not therefore follow that a very large annual Fund is required to keep it in Repair. It will not be expected that I shall waste a great deal of Time or many Words, upon this Part of the Observations, because after all Mr. Trouble's Labour to confute my Position, respecting the Goodness of the Outfal, for the Truth of which I referred the Proprietors to their own Remarks on the Floods, in the Wash, the *only true Criterion* to judge by, for as to the Argument of my Opponent respecting the Low Water Mark in the Channel, the Silt deposited there has not of late had the same number of Floods passing through the Wash, to correct it, as it had previous to and about the Year 1779, and after all this Subtilty in departing from the Question he finishes his Rhapsody by declaring that "*nevertheless the Outfal is undoubtedly in a good State*" However I acknowledge my Obligation to Mr. Trouble for setting right the Amount of the Sum that was taken out of the original Fund of 990l. 11s. 2d. towards the Payment of the Debt of 14000l. — It was 1238l. 16s 8d. and not 2000l. as I have supposed in my former Publication, but I must be a little explanatory on this Subject, that my Opponent may not exult more than becomes him. I have said before, that the Plan I have all along reprobated was sent me by Mr. Leg: It was accompanied by a long Letter:—My Answer to this Letter contained a Number of Queries which arose on the Subject: — One of these is as follows, viz. "What Plan was exhibited at the Meeting on the 2d, of Nov. 1778, for Payment of the Debt contracted on the North Level under

under the Act of 27. GEO. II. ? meaning this very Debt of 14000l. — To this Query Mr. Leg returned the following Answer, viz. "A Plan similar to that I have troubled you with, was exhibited" Now this Plan of Mr. Leg's provides for the Payment of Interest at 5 per Cent. and having an high Opinion of the Man's Veracity as I have several Times in the Course of this Business, acknowledged, I did believe that the other Plan was similar to his — It is like it in Form undoubtedly, but resembles it in the essential Parts no otherwise, than as a Shadow does a Substance, for the other Plan provides for the Payment of great Part of the Debt at the Rate of no more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent., and hence arose my Error of supposing 2000l. had been taken out of the original Fund—For a Sight of this Plan *which Mr. Leg himself might have furnished me with if he thought proper*, I have since my former Publication been indebted to a very respectable Proprietor, whose Civility I here acknowledge.

I fear Mr. Leg will acquire no Addition to his Fame for Candour, when I say, that my former Manuscript was in his Possession for near a Week, and that in Conversation with him upon this very Part of the Business previous to its Publication, he acknowledged *that 2000l. had been taken out of the original Fund.*

Mr. Trouble goes on and says, about 852l. 18s. a Year on an Average remained during the 9 Years for Support of the Works, but he forgets that from this Sum must be deducted the Expences, of the Act of Parliament, which I presume will reduce it to 800l. or thereabouts, so that 190l. or thereabouts will be the Surplus of this Fund for the Time to come, supposing the Works of the Commissioners including all the Etcæteras to cost what they have hitherto done. I am far from desiring to cramp the Genius of the Commissioners by confining them to an inadequate Fund; but I wish Mr. Trouble had subdivided that Article of the Expenditure which he notices under the Head of Salaries amounting to 120l. per Annum *at least*;—Methinks it is an heavy Sum to be paid for the Management of a Fund which when these Salaries are deducted has been only 680l. a Year, and I should be glad to have the Proprietors enabled to judge precisely how far it is necessary to continue the Payment of it.—That they may form some Sort of Judgement by Comparison, I shall now offer to their Consideration, what I know of the Matter so far as relates to the Collection of the Taxes, a Saving in which, as I before

remarked my Opponent considers *to be not worth Contention.* — The Act of the 27, GEO. II. having introduced the first Tax which required a Collector, it empowered the Commissioners to appoint one or more with such Salary or Salaries as they shall think proper but, very wisely provides that *no Person who holds a Place of Profit under that Act shall be a Commissioner.* — I know not whether the same Salary was originally paid that is now paid, nor who was originally the Collector, but this I know that a Person is now Collector, who has as long as I can speak to the Matter, been Mr. Leg's Clerk, and that 8d. in the Pound is paid to him for the whole Tax of 990l. amounting to 33l. per Annum, notwithstanding near Half the Tax is paid by the Duke of Bedford, from whose Estate, as he is Clerk to Mr. Leg there can be no Receipt, or anything more than an Entry in the Account, so that the Salary is really and in Fact at the Rate of 1s. 4d. in the Pound upon what he actually collects, and of the other Moiety something more than Half is paid by two Proprietors viz. Sir Sampson Gideon, and the Owner of Portland Estate which being collected in two Sums and without any Trouble, there could be no great Occasion to extend the Poundage to that Part of the Tax. — How far the Proprietors will think Mr. Leg was enjoying the Essence and Marrow of this Place of Profit. I mean the Salary of 33l. per Annum, whilst his Clerk was nominally the Receiver, must be left to their own Consideration, but sure I am, they will be of Opinion that the Commissioners did not use the most economical Plan in the Collection of this Tax, when they reflect that each of the Districts in the North Level, has a separate Receiver of its own District Funds, to whom this Tax might as well have been paid, (as it was payable from the very same Proprietors) and who would certainly have been glad to collect it for a very trifling Recompence. — The Act of the 11, GEO. III. introduced the next Tax that required a Collector, — This is payable to the Corporation who likewise have the Appointment of the Collector, — One would think a respectable Body who are Guardians for the Welfare of a Country like the Bedford Level, Would use strict Oeconomy in the Collection of this Tax, — That they would throw it into the Hands either of the District Receivers, or of the Receivers of the last mentioned Tax, with a trifling Recompence for keeping two Columns in the Account instead of one. — The Corporation do no such Thing, They appoint a distinct Receiver with a distinct Salary of 32l. per Annum. — By the 19, GEO III. two other Taxes were introduced,

one

one payable to the Corporation, who have thrown the Collection thereof into the Hands of their former Receiver, but with an additional Salary of 6d. in the Pound, amounting to 15l. per Annum. But here let it be understood that I am very far from meaning to condemn the Conduct of the Corporation, for altho' they have allowed very considerably more than was necessary, for the Collection of the Taxes that are payable to them, they were undoubtedly led by the Precedent which the Commissioners had established, who acting for the Proprietors, and some of them Proprietors in their own Rights, might reasonably be thought the best Judges of what was proper to be done — The other was a Commissioners Tax due on the same Days, and from the same Proprietors, with the Tax for the Collection of which, 33l. is paid annually to Mr. Leg's Clerk. The Act of the 19th GEO. III. giving no Power whatever to appoint an additional Receiver, this Tax is directed by the Act last mentioned, to be payable to such Person or Persons, as the Commissioners *under the Act of the 27th, of George the Second*, shall appoint to be Receiver or Receivers. On this Part of the Business I shall only add, that an additional Receiver is appointed, with an additional Salary of 44l. 12s. per Annum, and I now call upon my Opponent to say, whether in his Conscience he believes, that all these Salaries are necessary, and whether under any possible Construction of the Acts of Parliament, this additional Receiver can act at all as a Commissioner? And I further call upon him to say, in which of his Capacities, whether as *pretended* Commissioner or Receiver, it best becomes him, to bring annually to the Meeting Resolutions, ready cut and dried, appointing the Receivers, and fixing their Salaries, and to arrogate to himself the Power of determining, without consulting with any other Person, what Part of the Works shall be done, and of countermanding the solemn written Orders of the Commissioners? When remonstrated with by the Commissioners for neglect of Duty, in suffering many hundreds of Pounds to be in Arrear, from that Part of the Taxes which alone makes it necessary to have any Receiver at all, and at a Time when the Funds are paying 5 per Cent Interest, I further call upon him to say, upon what Principle he holds the Commissioners at Bay, and contends against any Measures for enforcing the Payment? And I further call upon him to say upon what Principle he expects a silent Acquiescence, on the Part of the Commissioners, who are sworn to do their Duty, without Favour or Affection to any Person whomsoever? And lastly I call upon him to say, upon what Principle he expects a Consent

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on the Part of the Proprietors, to any new Tax, the *absolute Necessity* of which is so far from being clearly demonstrated, that not a Shadow of a Reason or Argument has been urged in its Favour?

To prevent all Possibility of being misunderstood, I must here declare, that I have no Design to include the Commissioners in the Reflections that may be drawn from these Strictures: I respect many of them as Neighbours and honest Men, and have only to wish they would at all Times judge for themselves, in a Business which from its Magnitude, if for no other Reason, ought not to be left to the Dictates of any one Man in the World! I must likewise declare that although I have used Mr. Trouble, as a Sort of stalking Horse, to enable me to hit another more forcibly, or with a surer Aim, I have no positive Blame to charge him with. This I think it necessary to explain, because I find some of my Readers have really considered him in a criminal Point of View, but it was nothing more than the Warmth of indignant Reproof, that made me apply certain Instruments of Destruction (which indeed seemed almost ready bought to my Hands) with a Levity that I must confess was very unbecoming. But to return: Let no Man suffer himself by the invidious Conclusion of my Opponent's Observations, to be misled from the Matter in Hand — It is merely whether the Tax of 1s. per Acre, for 13 Years is necessary or not, under all Circumstances of the Funds — Of the Increase that may fairly be made to them, *without a new Tax — And of the proper Application of them.*

The local Situation of Sir Sampson Gideon's Estates in the North Level has *Nothing to do with the present Question*, any more than the Circumstance has of their being chiefly Adventure Land, though few People besides my Opponent would have arraigned me on that Account, since he *very well knows* that one great Objection of mine to his new Tax, is that it may not favour the Owners of the Adventure Lands, *at the Expence of the Owners of the Free Lands*, by charging the latter with the Payment of what actually belongs to the former; Nevertheless, upon this Point though foreign to the main Purpose, since my Opponent has himself brought it before the Proprietors, I must here declare, that should the Necessity of any new Tax arise, which I firmly believe can never happen, if the Funds and Works are managed as they ought to be, I shall undoubtedly combat the Proposition of making all Lands pay

pay alike, for the Support of Works in which they are not equally interested, and not merely upon the Principle of being Agent to Sir Sampson Gideon, but because it is a Question *in which many others are concerned*, who cannot so well afford to exercise Liberality.

Sir Sampson Gideon's Estate in the first District, is all Adventurers Lands, and I presume it is known to most of the Proprietors, that what are called Adventurers Lands were originally given to a Set of Adventurers, who undertook upon those Terms to drain the Remainder, and when the Necessity of taxing Lands first arose, the Adventurers were for that Reason, the only Lands to which the Tax extended: Upon true Principles of Fairness, it must be admitted, that the Adventurers Lands ought to preserve the other Lands *for ever*, but who are the Parties to call upon them? Those People from whose Property the Adventurers Lands were taken—Now Sir Sampson Gideon's Adventurers Lands abovementioned, were taken from those very extensive Commons, called Burrow Fen Common, the Slupe Common, and the Four-hundred-Acres Common, and it so happens that he does at this Moment, aided by the small Proprietors in the first District, (between whom and himself a Question of Fairness may possibly arise) actually perform the Contract, by draining those Commons (which consist of 7000 Acres) with the First District Engines and most probably the Owner of his Estate, will in like Manner for ever drain them, over and above contributing to the general Expences, *equally with all other Proprietors of Adventurers Lands in the North Level.* And to render this Drainage as difficult as possible, Carr Dyke which ought to convey the High Country Waters into the Folly River, has been suffered to grow up, and the Folly River which ought to be the Outfall for it into the River Welland, is nearly in the same Situation, so that this Water must always swill against the Banks, and let those Banks be ever so strong and good, this Swill must always occasion a very considerable Soak through them. Still further to impede the Drainage of these Commons, both the Banks of the Folly River, are planted with Willow Trees, and thereby rendered so porous that in the Judgement of many People they admit as much Water into the Commons, as one good Engine would throw out again. The Tops of these Trees afford a considerable Profit, which is enjoyed *by the same Person who enjoys the Profits of reletting the Banks;* it cannot therefore be wondered at, that a Discussion respecting the Propriety of suffering these Trees to continue, has been carried against

gainst their being cut down, altho' an Order has been since made, for cutting down the Willow Trees growing on the Bank of the Counter Drain of the North Bank, the Tops of which last, are the Profit *not of the Person who relets the Banks, but of the respective Owners of the Lands adjoining.* It may be proper to add, that in Consequence of this great Soak through the Carr Dyke Bank, and Folly Banks, (and more particularly the latter) which the Commissioners of the first District did all in their Power to get remedied, the Engines of the first District have been obliged to be encreased in Size at the Expence of *at least a Thousand Pounds,* to the Proprietors of that District.

To contrast this short History of Sir Sampson Gideon's Estate, with the History of the Duke of Bedford's Estate, may possibly save a great deal of future Scrutiny, and upon this Principle I hope to be excused, when I say, that the Duke of Bedford's Adventurers Lands, do not stand in the same Predicament. Who was to call upon him for a Performace of the original Contract? Why himself, for he is the Owner of the Free Lands from whence they were taken, and hence arose a Reason at the first, for extending the Taxes to the *Free Lands of his Grace,* which could not apply to *any other Free Lands in the North Level.*

As to Matters of Drainage, no Impediment has ever been thrown in the Way, but on the Contrary, notwithstanding the first District contributes towards the Expence in the same Proportion, every Part of the publick Works, that relates to the Drainage of his Graces Estate, has been kept good, and in general provided for, without a Consultation of the Commissioners, who have been called out, not to examine whether the Works are necessary or not, but to give a Sanction to an Estimate of the Expence, previously formed by Mr. Trouble and others, employed not by the Commissioners, but by Mr. Leg.

To illustrate this Part of the Business, I now desire my Opponent will state from the Documents in his Possession, how much Money has been laid out in the last nine Years (which is about the Period that he has been at the Head of the North Level Business) upon that Part of the Commissioners Works with which the first District and Portland Estate have any Concern, and likewise how much Money has been laid out upon the Carr Dyke Bank and the Folly Banks?

An

An Answer to this latter Part of the Question will shew very forcibly, how improper it is to state the Length of these Banks in any publick Account that is to be exhibited, for the Purpose of shewing the Magnitude of the Works, supported by the Corporation Fund, and it may perhaps induce the Corporation to compare the Salary of 45*l.* per Annum paid out of this Fund, to the Officer employed to superintend those Works, with the Salary paid to the Officer employed to superintend the Works of the South Bank, and surely if it appears that the Carr Dyke and Folly Banks are little or no Expence to the Fund, it must follow, that little or no Salary is necessary to be paid for superintending them.

I presume it will be admitted that *Precedent* however ancient, cannot sanctify WRONG, and I now call upon my Opponent to say, upon what Principle of Fairness, the first District and Portland, can be expected to contribute towards the new Tax, in the Proportion he requires them to do, when so far as the Debt is concerned, the small Proprietors and Portland Estate would be actually paying Money for Sir Sampson Gideon, and as to the public Works, these two Districts have neither as yet received any thing like a due Share of the Advantages, nor under all Circumstances of the Nature of the Business, can it be expected they *ever* should be benefited in a like Proportion with the other three Districts?

Upon the first View of the Plan for the new Tax, I was led to believe that a Tax was necessary for the Purpose of paying off the Debt, and having at that Time no Knowledge of those Intricacies which I have since studied to understand, I was not aware of the improper Operation of the Plan with respect to the Free Lands, and therefore at first I sought to qualify the Plan so as to suit all apparent Circumstances of Fairness, but the Moment I found out the *Unfairness of the Scheme as to the Free Lands, and that the Debt, might be sufficiently lessened without a new Tax*, I mentioned these Matters to my Opponent and held up my Hand decisively against the Measure. I am now the more particular in explaining myself because I presume this is what my Opponent means by his Charge of *Unfairness and Partiality* altho' I have all along used the same Arguments that I now use, so far as a Knowledge of *Facts* at the Time extended, and whatever is the Object to attend to, I trust that I shall always be found to act with the same Consistency.

I find that I have overlooked one of my Opponents Observations, which ought properly to have been noticed in that Part of these Additional Reasons which relates to the Fund for Support of the Banks, I mean his Position as to the *utter Impracticability* of getting rid of the whole Debt by Purchase of the Taxes — I deny this Position, and to shew that none of my Reasons, which he calls bold Assertions, are taken up, on weak Ground, I undertake to prove that there are various Ways of purchasing a sufficient Part of the Taxes to pay off the whole Debt, if necessary. In the first Place, the two large Proprietors, if they think proper, may buy off the whole Tax, laid by Act 11, GEO. III. which would raise more than the whole Debt of 25,000l. and in that Case, they would only have to receive a Rent-charge issuing out of the Estates of the small Proprietors.—In the next Place, the very same Power that must be obtained for charging the North Level with a new Tax, I mean an Act of Parliament, may be obtained, for enabling them to buy off a sufficient Part of their own ancient Corporation Taxes, to discharge the remaining 8,500l. There is another Mode which I should prefer to either of these, and which I must take the Trouble of illustrating by a Case in Point, that is undoubtedly fresh in the Memory, of at least one hundred of my Readers—I mean the Purchase of Part of the Taxes laid by the Commissioners of the first District for their own interior Works, and upon this Head I must be a little explanatory.

When the Employment I am now engaged in, first devolved upon me, I found the first District Funds charged with a heavy Debt, and the Works by no Means in a State to answer the Purpose of Drainage. Indeed, the Engines at that Time standing, were not at all equal to the Task of contending with the prodigious Soak, that the Commons are encumbered with from the Causes above recited, and which I did all in my Power to remedy without Effect, not being able to convince my Opponent that the Roots of *Willow Trees upon the Folly Banks* can possibly admit Water into the Common. In this Dilemma what was to be done? An Act of Parliament was suggested to me, as affording the only possible Help, as the small Proprietors (120 in Number) could not by any other Means, be made to pay their Quota of the necessary Expences, amounting to about a Thousand Pounds.—To this I had an insuperable Objection; and after examining the Act of 27, GEO. II. I found that the Commissioners of the first District, had the very same Power of lowering their interior Tax, that the
General

General Commissioners have of lowering what is called the perpetual Tax, and it immediately occurred to me that Part of this interior Tax, might be bought off for a Term of Years, and that an Agreement entered into between the Proprietors and the Commissioners would have all the Effect of a regular Conveyance. I recommended this Plan, which was instantly adopted by Sir Sampson Gideon, who owns about four-fifths of the District, and the Example was instantly followed by a Majority (in Value) of the other Proprietors, by which Means a large Sum of Money was raised, the District is now clear of Debts, the Engines are increased in the Proportion required, and the Remainder of the Fund is sufficient to provide for the necessary Works during the Term agreed for. This then is the Mode that of all others I would wish to prefer in Case it shall be thought proper to pay off the whole of the Debt, which I contend is not *necessary* to be done at present.

But as a Time may come when Sense and Reason aided by Integrity and Self-denial, may desert the ruinous System of taxing, and not confined by strict necessity, may try to lessen those Burdens already imposed, it may be worth while to state what would be the Operation of the Plan I am now proposing, if carried into Execution, which will be best done by a Comparison thereof, with the annual Fund to be produced from my Opponent's Plan for Support of the Banks; and likewise by a Comparison of the Commissioners Fund (when increased by the Surplus of the other Fund) with the State of the Expenditure for Commissioners Works, taken upon an Average of the last nine Years, and here let me beg that no Person whose Salary will be lowered by the Plan I have to propose, will be offended with me, since I have been drawn by my Opponent much further into this Business, than I ever meant to go.

This then will be the State of what I have to propose. *viz.*

	£.	s.	d.
The Profits of the Banks to be brought to Account,	80	0	0
The Increase in the Contingencies, ditto - - - -	75	0	0
The Saving by Purchase of the Duke's and Sir S G's Tax,	275	0	0
The Corporation Fund that will be left at Christmas next,	464	11	10
The Interest of the Remainder of the Debt 8,500l. got rid of by Assignment of the perpetual Tax. - - - }	475	0	0
carried up	£1369	11	10

Brought forward £ 1369 11 10 £. s. d.

Deduct the Money paid to the Commissioners of the Spalding Road	} £. s. d.	This Column shews the nett Amount of the 2 Funds after the Debt is discharged.
Consolidate the Appointments of the Corporation Officer, and the two Receivers, and allow per Annum what is a very sufficient Allowance, considering that there will be hardly any Taxes to receive.	} 41 0 0	
	} 50 0 0	
	<hr/>	
		91 0 0

Nett Amount of the Fund for the Banks 1278 11 10 1278 11 10

* My Opponent requires by his Plan for Support of the Banks during the first 11 Years - - - - -	} 775 0 0
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Deduct the Money paid to the Commissioners of the Spalding Road, - - - - -	} £. s. d.
	} 41 0 0

Deduct the Salary of the Corporation Officer, - - -	} £. s. d.
	} 45 0 0

Deduct the Salary to the Receiver of the corporation Tax	} 32 0 0
	<hr/>
	77 9 0

118 0 0

Nett Amount of the Fund for Banks by my Opponent's Plan, - - - - -	} 657 0 0
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Surplus of this Fund to be added to the Commissioners Fund as directed by the Act of Parliament, - - - - -	} 621 0 0
	<hr/>

Carried forward 621 0 0 1278 11 10

* I presume he cannot think the Fund will be cramped when there is as much allowed as he himself asks for, but I must here take Occasion to observe that in his Comments upon my Plan, he insinuates that his Allowance of 775l. is a nett Allowance, and that mine of 800l. is subject to these Deductions—This is contrary to the Fact, for they are both alike subject to the same Deductions. His plausible Statements of the great Expences of the Banks *previous to 1779*, have the same Tendency to mislead, for common Sense will point out to every Reader, that if the Banks require a larger Fund, he who is the professed Champion for their Support, would have allowed a larger Sum, since whilst he is getting rid of the Debt, the Country might and would be lost, were they confined for eleven Years to a less Expenditure than is necessary.

		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
	Brought forward	621	11	10	1278	11	10
The Fund for Commissioners		£.	s.	d.			
Works at Christmas next will be		990	11	2			
Deduct Loss thereof for 15 years		850	0	0			
by Assignment of Part of the Tax		140	11	2	140	11	2

762 3 0

NB The Receiver of the Remainder of the Commissioners Tax, to be Receiver of the other Tax as well as Corporation Officer and therefore Nothing allowed here. -

Allow for the other Salaries which my Opponent states to be at present 87l. per Annum, - - - - - 82 3 0

Nett Amount of the Commissioners Fund by my Plan. - - - - - 680 0 0

The Expenditure of the Commissioners Fund for the last nine Years, after deducting the Expenses of the Act Parliament has been £. s. d. 800 0 0

Deduct, paid the Receiver of the Tax under the 27, GEO. II. - - - - - £. s. d. 33 0 0

Quere how do these Salaries arise? Paid to other Officers to make up 120l. stated by my Opponent to be the amount at least of Salaries. 87 0 0

Nett Amount of the Commissioners Fund by my Opponent's Plan, - - - - - 120 0 0 680 0 0

Add the Amount of the Tax assigned for 15 years which at the end of that Period will return to the Commissioners Fund, - - - - - 850 0 0

This would be the Amount of the two Funds at the end of 15 Years, which I have said in my first Publication would be two Thousand Pounds, subject to no Deduction whatever either for Interest or Salaries, the former ceasing and the latter being provided for as above, - 2269 3 0

In the emphatic Language of my Opponent the Proprietors would by these Means *have the happy Reflection of being assured* that they will have purchased for themselves, their Children, and Posterity, SECURITY, and will transmit to them, their Estates in the North Level, free from Debts, free from Danger, and something more than ideal Wealth or imaginary Property, and they may hug themselves in the warm Consolation, of having done all this, not at the enormous Expence required by my Opponent's Plan, but at NO EXPENCE AT ALL. For let it be remembered that the Debts of the two large Proprietors will be paid off by both Plans, and consequently the Loss to the Proprietors at large will be the Amount of *all the Money that will be taken from them in the thirteen Years by the new Tax*—And I must here inform my Opponent that in my former Publication, I purposely gave the two large Proprietors Credit for the Difference between 5 per Cent. and 3 per Cent for their Money, that I might avoid an Attack, by stating every thing as much to my own Disadvantage as I could in the Argument.

It has been hinted to me by a respectable Proprietor that my Opponent insinuates in Conversation that by commenting on his Plan, I have betrayed a *Confidence*, and as a Sort of pretended Proof in Support of this Allegation, he says it must be so understood, because he has not avowed the Plan as Agent to the Duke of Bedford. I am not fond of taking up Matters on Hearsay, however respectable the Authority, but if true, in answer to this, I must say in the first Place, it would be the highest insult I could be guilty of to the Proprietors at large, were I capable of entering into the *Confidence of any Man*, in a Business not of private, but of very great public Concern. In the next Place, I have arraigned his Conduct at the public Meetings, to his Teeth, in the Presence of his late Superior, concerning whom, I must here declare, that my Complaint met with instant Redress: Let any one therefore judge for himself, whether it is likely we should be in the *Confidence* of each other: I have a few *confidential* Friends, but believe me he is not one of the Number. Lastly as to his pretended Proof, I admit that in his Letter, containing the Answers to my Queries, he disavows the Plan as Agent to the Duke of Bedford, but what has this to do with it? If the Plan be bad, it would be no better I presume, for coming from him in that Capacity.

However in the Conversation that passed at the public Meeting, on the

the first Monday in July last, in Answer to my beforementioned Objection, which I then renewed, respecting the Propriety of making the *Free Lands*, pay more than belongs to them, Mr. Leg, used Words to the following Effect. "The Free Lands consist of about 21,000 Acres, and I undertake to answer for 18,000 Acres" Now of these Free Lands the Duke of Bedford happens to be Owner of THIRTEEN THOUSAND ACRES——Come forward Mr. Leg—Take WING again, and reconcile these Contradictions.

This is the Result of an Enquiry, brought on by my Opponent's own Officiousness: The Reasons that have operated in my own Mind against the new Tax, are now before the Proprietors in the clearest and most unequivocal Manner, that I know how to explain them.—I have been led into this troublesome Disquisition, by no Consideration upon Earth, but a Desire to do what is right and not from Motives either of personal attachment or self-interest—As to the first, my Employer, as I have Reason to think, is not at this Moment acquainted with any Part of the Transaction, and I have not nor ever had, any Authority from him, or from any one belonging to him, for taking the Part I have done. As to the last, I have no Self-interest to gratify, for whether the Tax takes Place or no, I shall not be one Penny richer or poorer. I have sought to prevent the Evil, by first arraigning the Measure only, and have been obliged to divert my Attack to the proposer of the Tax, as well in my own Defence as in Defence of the Cause I have undertaken, firmly convinced, from the Conduct of my Opponent, that, to use his own Words, *no Palliative, or slight Relief, but a radical Cure must be administered.*

Sept. 17, 1788.

GEO. MAXWELL.

Septembr 26, 1788.

P. S. I think it necessary to take some little Notice of a Publication of Mr. Wing's which has been just now put into my Hands. In the first Place I readily admit that any Person whomsoever had a right to make what Strictures he pleased on my first Publication, *provided he stuck to the Truth*, and combated only what I said, and not what he, from some mistaken Prejudice, supposed to be my Motives—whether Mr. Wing and Mr. Leg, are the same Person or not, must be left to the

the Judgement of the Readers of the two Pamphlets. My own Opinion is fixed, and not to be altered, but by the Public Avowal of the first Pamphlet by some other Person, in which case all my Anger falls to the Ground of course, but I must be allowed to feel a little Indignation, at having the Openness and Candour of my Conduct towards Mr. Wing, treated with unprovoked Disrespect, under the Mask of *an anonymous Signature*—This I hold sufficient to be said concerning two such insignificant Persons as himself and me, when an Object of such prodigious Magnitude is before us—I have not time to follow him through the detail he has given of the Titles and Purposes of the different Acts of Parliament, neither do I conceive it to be at all necessary—His Charge of Misrepresentation and Ingratitude is what I mean to speak to, tho' so far as it concerns myself it affects me not, for all who know me, know me to be incapable of wilfully transgressing against either; but before his Readers believe that I have misrepresented the Fact in my Note, explaining the meaning of the word Contribution, his Comment upon which, *is a literal Copy of what Mr. Cole says in his introductory History of the North Level*, let them turn to the Act 27, GEO. II.—They will there find a strong Reason for supposing that the Debts which Mr. Cole says, were most generously remitted by the late Duke of Bedford, and the Earl of Lincoln, were given up in *consequence of a Bargain*, made between them and the other Owners of Lands in the North Level, who agreed to the Taxation of their Lands, in consideration of the North Level being discharged of the whole Debts of the Bedford Level, of which Debts these of the Duke of Bedford and Lord Lincoln made a Part.

I think I know Mr. Cole well enough to know, that he did not wilfully misrepresent the fact, and sure I am, he cannot be offended, at my giving the following Copy of a Letter from him, in Answer to one of mine, apologizing for contradicting what he had asserted in print, on this very Part of the Business.

Copy

“Sir,

August 25, 1788, Sunning Hill.

“I Received your Favour with the Reasons inclosed, and take the “earliest Opportunity of acknowledging the liberal Manner, in which “you treat me, on a supposed discovery of my having in Print, mistated “a Fact. I say supposed, because I cannot, until I have examined the “Allegation

"Allegation in your Note, admit it. I have here no Book or Paper
 "to enable me to do this — When I can consult the Documents, on
 "which I founded my Fact, I shall give you the trouble of reading a-
 "nother Letter, in which I shall either acknowledge my Error, with
 "Thanks to you for so candidly pointing it out, or offer you reasons
 "that may induce you, to reconsider what is at present a point unsettled
 "between us.

Believe me Sir

your obliged and Faithful

Humble Servant

C. N. C.

NB Let it be observed that Mr. Cole admits it to be a *Point unsettled*.

This I take to be the Language and Behaviour of a Gentleman,
 and who knows but Mr. Wing, who has copied Mr. Cole in reciting
 the Fact stated by the latter in his introductory History, may at last
 turn Gentleman, and copy him in Candour and Politeness, and espe-
 cially since he informs us that he is become a Member of the Bedford
 Level Corporation. Apropos! Mr. Wing! You *can hold no Place of*
Profit under them! But what becomes of your Place of *double Profit,*
under the Commissioners of the North Level? Is this *tenable* with
 your new Appointment? Or consistent with your *assumed* Character
 of Brutus? If I mistake not it was Cassius, not Brutus, who had an
itching Palm!

I have not as my Opponent asserts *ever objected to his Plan because*
it does not provide a sufficient Fund for the first Years. As to the
 Creditors, there can be no Ground for Apprehensions that they will
 take the Revenues into their own Possession, since two third Parts of
 the whole Debt belong to the two large Proprietors, who would
 thereby only distress themselves. As to the other Creditors, they are
 paid Interest half-yearly at the Rate of 5 per Cent. and they have as
 good Securities as any in the World, which being transferable, the
 Money if wanted, might be had to-morrow.

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It may be necessary however to say a few Words by way of explaining some Parts of this Publication. — My Letter to Mr. Wing, copied in Page 11 seems to be the Prelude to Facts more glaringly set off—I have Candour enough to acknowledge, that the Interposition of Friends has induced me to suppress the latter Part of what I had written — One of them with great Good-nature advises me to keep my Temper, and not suffer my Expressions to go beyond the Line of due Decorum. — Another desires me not to let an honest Zeal carry me into personal Reflections, *however provoked*—A third says I ought not to be diverted from the Path of clear and perspicuous Argument, by any unjust Insinuations of my Opponent. To Arguments like these, if I had turned a deaf Ear, I should have truly deserved the Charge of Ingratitude (tho' having no Property or Place of Profit at stake, I am utterly at a loss to comprehend the meaning of this Charge) I resolved therefore to furnish only the Out-lines, and leave it to every Reader to finish the Portrait, to his own Mind.

In return for the Praises of my Friends (whether deserved or not) with which these Admonitions were accompanied, I can only follow the Example of my Opponent, and finish with a poetical Sentiment, which I learnt in my earliest Infancy,

“Sweet as the Nightingale’s sweet Lays,
“Is Praise from those who merit Praise”!

To Mr. Wing, in consequence of two Letters published in the Stamford Newspaper addressed to myself.

The praises of virtuous Men, with the Truth and Justice of my Cause, and the silent approbation of a good Conscience, will support me against an armed Host, but neither your Friend Mr. Payne, nor your Clerk, Assistant, Agent, Hack or Drudge James Foreman, shall draw me from my Purpose—The real, not pretended Good of the North Level on the Broad Scale of general, not partial Preservation is my Object, and this is only to be brought about, by a REFORM in the Management of its Revenues and of the Business relating thereto. You have now furnished me with a public Character to resort to, and henceforward I shall desert all masked Batteries, and address myself personally to you, who are the Primum mobile, the avowed

ed Promoter, of all I hold to be reprehensible. Brutus whose Character you have assumed, says "there are no Tricks in plain and simple Faith" and the Life of this virtuous Man was the best Comment on his Sentiment. He could "raise no Money by vile means, and would have "coined his Heart, and dropped his Blood, rather than have wrung "from the hard Hands of Peasants their vile Trash, by any Indirecti-
"on" Is it possible that you, Mr. Wing, the modern Brutus, can employ James Foreman in the manner you have done, and allow him Nothing for his Trouble, but the poor Pittance of about 30l. a Year, which is paid not by you, but out of the North Level Revenues?

Who has constantly negociated matters between you and me, ever since I have held the Post I am now in? James Foreman—— In whose hand writing, are the Accounts drawn up, that we have had together of Money Transactions relating to our respective Employers? In James Foreman's—— Who has received the Tax for you, for the Collection of which, you are allowed a Salary in your own Name of 44l. 12s. per Annum? James Foreman—— And yet with all these glaring Facts staring him in the Face, public and notorious, as Facts can be, you have forced this poor Man, to sign a Declaration that he never was your Clerk, which can only mean that he has never been engaged to you at any stated Salary. It would have been impossible to have deduced any actual Proof of this, if he had not stepped forward, and publicly avowed it—— But supported as far as Evidence of this ambiguous kind, can go; I now in direct Terms say that if you have really paid him Nothing out of your own Pocket by way of stated Salary, you have enjoyed the *Effence and Marrow* of James Foreman's Place of Profit, whilst he was nominally the Receiver—— The Virtues of Brutus were so great, that Nature might stand up and say to all the World THIS WAS A MAN! If you are really emulous of his Fame and Character; Go, Mr. Wing, and imitate his good Deeds, but dread the Fatal Consequence of his CONSPIRACY!

I should not think it necessary to take any Notice at all, of your Friend Mr. Payne, if I did not know that he is materially concerned in the Expenditure of the Funds—— He has proved beyond Dispute a good Title to all the Brandy he can come at, and I believe there is not a Man acquainted with him, who will not allow that he stands unrivalled in the Article of Ignorance, but under Favour, these Accomplishments, Mr. Wing, do not justify you, when any Public Works are to be

be executed, in a Mockery of all Order, and an Insult on the Understandings of the Commissioners, by cramming down their Throats, the Estimates of this Man, who in his sober Moments never was qualified for the Post he fills.

I really did not mean to include James Foreman, in my Censures on the Receivers, for suffering such large Arrears to accumulate — The Fault however is somewhere, and, *Mr. Wing*, you are the only Man to be blamed — I can tell you that Arrears are never *necessary* if Receivers do their Duty, tho' to some People they may be very *expedient*. For Instance, if a Treasurer, happens to be a Collector, and a leading Commissioner likewise, they enable him to state in his Accounts, a Balance in his own Favour, which Balance he may receive when he pleases of the People in Arrear. To say Nothing of the Half-year's Tax which is always due before these Accounts are settled, one Half of which is payable from the Duke of Bedford, and a Moiety of the other Half or thereabouts, from two Proprietors — The Modern Brutus may use these *Tricks*, and hug himself in supposing they have never been observed, and I believe he will survive the Disgrace attendant on them, but the great the amiable Brutus would have died, under the bare Suspicion!

I do not recollect what these Arrears amounted to, when I first reproached you with them. I believe, however, they were very considerably diminished on the 2d. of July, 1787, when by the Account which is now before me, upon these two Taxes in your's and your Man Foreman's Collection, they amounted to 1026l. 3s. 4½, to say Nothing of the Arrears of the other Taxes, the Receivers of which had followed your Example — On the 7th of July 1788, these Arrears were reduced to the Sum of 401l. 13s. 11d, and in Consequence thereof, the Balance on the face of your Account was not in your Favour, as it used to be, but without any slight of Hand, or legerdemain *Tricks*, this Balance was turned against you — The Trouble I had to *force* you to this Exertion, is known to *ourselves*, for what passed was a private Remonstrance, to which I compelled your Attention, being urged thereto, by the Arrogance and Presumption of your public Conduct, on this very Part of the Business. Had Mr. Palmer, who knew me, and to whom my Character gave me an easy Access, been now living, I firmly believe you would not have *dared* to go the Lengths, you have gone, in this unpleasant Contest, notwithstanding you are become a Member of the Bedford Level Corporation. To

To shew that I really mean what I pretend, I now come to my radical Cure, and I here make a public Offer, of providing a Receiver, and one duly qualified (who has already proved that the interior Taxes of the first District may be collected from 120 People without almost any Arrears) to receive such Part of the general Taxes (as well Commissioners as Corporation Taxes) as arises from the first District (the Arrears being first collected) *without a Shilling Expence to either of the Funds* — To prevent the Injury that this may do James Foreman, of whom I have a good Opinion notwithstanding he has set his Name to several Untruths *and for whom I am really interested, feeling, as I do, for his aged Mother, by thinking a little of my own,* I now make him an Offer of becoming my Clerk, at the, Salary of Forty Pounds a Year, without being obliged to keep a Horse at all over and above the Profits of the Collection of the fourth District interior Taxes which he shall be at Liberty to Undertake, provided he collects at the same time the general Taxes, paid by that District, without any further Expence — Mr Searle who is the Corporation Officer at the Salary of 45^l. and likewise the Receiver of the second District interior Taxes, with a Salary from that Fund, the Amount of which I do not know, will undoubtedly not refuse to Collect the general Taxes of that District likewise — And you, the modern Brutus, may possibly be prevailed with, or *compelled by some means or other,* to place the Taxes of the third District, **ALL OF WHICH BELONGS TO HIS GRACE,** to your Account as Treasurer, without receiving a Poundage on the Amount of them. — The Poundage allowed for the aggregate Taxes *for the General Works* charged on his Grace's Estate by and since the 27, GEO. II. amount only to the small Sum of **ONE THOUSAND AND TWENTY POUNDS,** this to be sure is but a Trifle to a Country like the North Level, abounding with infinite Sources of Revenue, and but a Trifle in the Pockets of the different Receivers, most of whom you have informed us are, and all of whom except the Drudge, poor James Foreman, I know to be, Men of Property, but, Mr. Wing, now we have begun upon Oeconomy, let us go through with the Work, and suffer the North Level Funds to receive this small annual Supply that would be added to it, if the Liberality of the modern Brutus is allowed to operate as it ought to do — I have stated however, in my Calculation 5^l. to be added to Mr. Searle's Salary as Officer, and e'en settle the matter, in your own way, Gentlemen! And divide the Spoil between you. — There remains only the fifth District to provide for, and as there may

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be some small Degree of Credit obtained by the Collection from this without a Salary altho' it is almost wholly payable from one Proprietor, I now out of Regard to the Character you have assumed, make you an offer of it—If you refuse it, do not be offended at my declaring, I am willing and ready to take it. But stop, you whisper in my Ear, neither James Foreman, nor myself would be duly qualified, my Residence being out of the Boundary of the North Level! True, Mr. Wing! But do not you who have been swallowing Camels now strain at a Gnat, when the Welfare of a Country like the North Level is at Stake! Thus you see, my Plan, at least this Part of it, may be carried into immediate Execution, and I have now furnished you with an Opportunity of shewing, whether you have any Claim at all, to the Appellation of Brutus! If you hesitate, I am afraid some other poetical Character will be found for you, and take Care, Mr. Wing, that you are not compared to the Serpent in Milton at the Ear of Eve, with crooked Tricks, and artful wiles, sily insinuating for the *pretended* Good of Mankind! Remember! A touch of Ithuriel's Spear, presented *him*, in his proper Shape!

You have very ingeniously contrived that I should have a double Enemy to encounter — One under your Mask, in which Character, you have said that I *cautiously concealed*, a great Part of the Commissioners Works — This I have answered, by shewing that I meant *only* to state the *Amount of the Fund*, and not a particular Enumeration of the different Heads and Titles of the *Works*, to which the Fund is applicable — The other in your present Character of John Wing, in which you have asserted, that *the Statements I have made of the Commissioners Works*, must proceed from want of Knowledge—In answer to to this, I tell you Mr. Wing, that all your Art to mislead, shall not avail, for *I never did state these Works at all, nor ever meant to do.*

In the Freedom of Argument I have said in my first Publication “surely it would be the Height of Folly for the Duke of Bedford, “and Sir Sampson Gideon to desert the plain Track that is before “them, &c.” You, Mr. Wing, the *wicked* Proposer of the Tax, (almost the true Epithet you have used) with a Perversion of *common Sense that taken singly would disgrace you*, construe this into a Charge of Folly, tho' they have neither of them as yet made the smallest Attempt to desert the plain Track, I have described

bed — This can only be equalled, by another Perversion *just as wicked*, where you say that I have openly *charged the Proprietors*, at first with Ignorance, and at last with Poverty.

I have not yet done —

One of your Zealots, instructed by you, for the same Purpose that you have employed James Foreman, and your Friend Payne, has arraigned my Conduct in a publick Room, for presuming to examine the Corporation Accounts—— If I had not a sincere Regard for his Character, as I know him to be honest at Bottom, I would not take the Trouble of advising him, to know a little what he is about, before he takes a Liberty of this Kind again, especially in my Absence, for I now tell him, that whether I have a legal Right or not, to go to your Office, which is a publick Office, and where you have deposited both Copies of the Commissioners Accounts, altho' the Act plainly means you to keep Possession of only one of them, I have a written Invitation from you Mr. Wing, under your own Hand and of recent Date, for examining these *Corporation Accounts*, which you therein say are at all Times ready for mine or any Commissioners Inspection — Until you cancel this Authority, I shall take the same Liberty again whenever I please, and when you think proper to annul it, I will try whether a Commissioner appointed to settle these very Accounts may not examine them without your Permission.

Any thing more Gentlemen? What *Giant* am I next to encounter? You had better take your Friend Mr. Payne's Advice and give over, for you make sad work of it! But Thanks, to my honest Friend the Brandy Merchant! Did I not say he was stupider than any other Man! Poor Soul! He is very far gone indeed! Make him understand if you can, Mr Wing, for I find I cannot, that *Pain* and *Trouble*, are synonymous Terms, and when you are about it, tell him that *Puzzle* and *Perspicuity*, are as opposite in their Natures, as you and the Person who now addresses you. But Thanks, a Thousand Thanks, to my honest Friend, the Brandy Merchant! He has served me for a Spear, with which I have thrust the *Serpent* out of his lurking Hole, and my Enemy now stands plain and erect before me. I am much mistaken, if I am again attacked in a *groveling Posture*.

Begin

Begin again however when you please, Truth shall convict you — The *wicked* Proposer of the Tax, shall next be shewn in the Character of Falstaff, if he will only use a small Portion of Wit, with a little less Cunning! of the *fly* Kind, *I mean!* My honest Friend the Brandy Merchant, shall act the Part of Bardolph, and if a Breach of any of the Banks should happen, whilst this Farce is performing and any more Night-work should be required, what an amazing Sum in Candles will be saved to the North Level Funds! "Lies, gross as a Mountain," however hid by Mists of Subterfuge and Art shall serve no Man's Turn, neither shall "any Trick, Device, or starting Hole, conceal the Author of them from open and apparent Shame"! "From this Day forth, I'll use you for my Mirth, yea for my "Laughter" Alas! poor Brutus!

GEO. MAXWELL.

September 29, 1788,

F I N I S.



E R R A T A.

Page 24 line 28, for 621l. os. od. read 621l. 11s. rod.

line 29,

Ditto,

Ditto.

